

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR VOLUME 55

Dear CBS member,

As I write this letter, the world is going through a great deal of economic turmoil. At such times, it is comforting to dwell on those values and organizations that have shown their ability to abide over time. The California Botanical Society (CBS), founded in 1914, has pursued its mission of promoting Western American botany and natural history through two world wars and many economic upheavals, including the Great Depression. Of course, it can't always have been easy for a volunteer run society to push forward against the inevitable obstacles. Nevertheless, due to the unflagging commitment of its members and dedicated volunteers, CBS continues to thrive.

This past year, we have been especially privileged to have an excellent and dedicated board. I thank previous editors John Callaway and John Hunter for serving as interim editors for the issues 2 and 3. I also thank CBS board members Andrew Doran, Heather Driscoll, Staci Markos, Abigail Moore, Jim Shevock, Sue Bainbridge, and Mike Vasey for their efforts beyond the call of duty.

I welcome the new co-editors of *Madroño* Professor Richard Whitkus of Sonoma State University and

Professor Tim Lowrey of University of New Mexico. They will bring to the editorship a long history of collaboration with each other, and a detail-oriented approach. In an age when academics face increasing professional demands on their time, we honor their commitment to publishing high quality studies of Western American botany in *Madroño*.

Recently, CBS held its annual banquet in collaboration with the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) during the CNPS Conservation Conference in Sacramento, California. This conference had an exciting program that brought together academic, professional, and amateur botanists, as well as naturalists and gardeners. Many members of CBS are also members of CNPS, and both organizations are committed to increasing knowledge of California plant life. The CBS 2010 banquet is planned to take place at San Jose State University in conjunction with the biannual graduate student meeting in February, 2010. This is less than a year away, so if you are a graduate student, or if you advise graduate students, consider planning to participate in this event.

Dean G. Kelch
December 2008